# Who was John F. Kennedy?

# Worksheets for students grades three through five

**To teachers:** Please find following a set of five worksheets to accompany *A Biography of John F. Kennedy: the 35th President of the United States*. Using the lens of biography, these worksheets are intended to help students reinforce their knowledge of the life and presidency of John F. Kennedy while at the same time encouraging them to think critically to provide thoughtful answers. The worksheets can be used as part of a coherent unit or used separately in accordance with your needs and the particular abilities of your students. Please feel free to use the following worksheets in your classroom, which are appropriate for students in grades three through five.

**Who was this person?**

**Directions:** Read each statement carefully. Notice that each statement contains one bolded and capitalized letter. Write this letter in the corresponding blank below.

**Example:**

1. His great grandparents were immigrants from Ir**E**land.

**\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ *E* \_\_\_ \_\_\_**

**10 9 6 4 11 7 3 2 5 1 8 12**

2. He was bor**N** in Brookline, Massachusetts.

3. He had thr**E**e brothers and five sisters.

4. He spe**N**t much of his childhood sick in bed.

5. He was often late for meals and didn’t keep his room very **N**eat as a child.

6. He received a ‘C’ in government at **H**arvard.

7. He saved himself and his crew, during World War II, by using a coconut and his poc**K**etknife.

8. He loved to rea**D**.

9. He loved sailing and the **O**cean.

10. As a **J**unior senator, he had a serious back operation and almost died.

11. He was the **F**irst Catholic ever elected president.

12. He was the **Y**oungest elected president of the United States.

**Who am I?**

**Directions:** Use this sheet to take notes on aspects of yourself you think others might want to know. You can use these notes as a starting point to write your full autobiography in the future.

**My Self-Portrait:**

Full name (including middle name):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Birth date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Birth place\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In my family I am the (circle one): oldest, middle, youngest, or only child.

Names of people living with me in my house: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Total number of people in my family (including aunts, uncles, cousins, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_\_

My favorite school subject(s):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Things/activities I like to do: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

My heroes are: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

One thing most people don’t know about me is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

One word to describe my personality is:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

My goal(s) in life are:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Over

BONUS QUESTIONS

1.What is the difference between an autobiography and a biography?

2. Which one – an autobiography or a biography – do you think gives a

more accurate account of a person’s life? Why?

The Young John Fitzgerald Kennedy: What was he like?

1. What sports or activities did he like to do?

2. What do you think it was like being second oldest and having an older brother in a large family?

1. What was John F. Kennedy like in school?

1. What illnesses or injuries did he suffer from as a young person?

1. Why was John F. Kennedy awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal and a citation for ‘extremely heroic conduct’ during World War II?

**John F. Kennedy serving his country: The Congressman and Senator, 1947-1960**

**Directions:** Read about John F. Kennedy between the years 1947-1960 and then fill in the blanks below with the correct information.

After coming home from the war, John F. Kennedy was elected to his first political office in the year \_\_\_\_\_\_. In total, he served as a Congressman from the state of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_for \_\_\_\_\_ terms, the equivalent of six years. Then, in 1952 he was elected to the United States Senate. One year later, when John F. Kennedy was thirty six years old, he married \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Unfortunately, early on in their marriage, JFK began having back pain again and went to the hospital for surgery. While he was recovering at the Kennedy family home in Florida, he wrote the Pulitzer prize winning book called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

about several U.S. Senators who risked their careers to fight for the issues and causes they believed in. When he felt better, he returned to Washington D.C. in May 1955 to continue his duties as Senator. In 1960 he ran for President against the Republican candidate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and won. John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th President of the United States on January 20, 1961. At the inauguration he made a memorable speech and said “Ask not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**The Presidency of John F. Kennedy**

**Directions:** Focus on the years 1961 to 1963 when John F. Kennedy was President and choose three things that he did that you think others should remember about him as the 35th President of the United States. Explain your answer.

**JFK should be remembered for the following things:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I think this because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I think this because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I think this because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_